

Pinkas Fischer
Draft Upland Site Summary

PINKAS FISCHER (DAR SITE ID #136)

Address: 548 Gardner Avenue, Brooklyn, Kings County, New York 11222
Tax Lot Parcel(s): Brooklyn Block 2802, Lot 1 and Lot 10
Latitude: 40.726672
Longitude: -73.931597
Regulatory Programs/
Numbers/Codes: None
Analytical Data Status: ☐ Electronic Data Available ☒ Hardcopies only
☐ No Data Available

1 SUMMARY OF CONSTITUENTS OF POTENTIAL CONCERN (COPCs) TRANSPORT PATHWAYS TO THE CREEK

The current understanding of the transport mechanisms of COPCs from the upland portions of the Pinkas Fischer site (site) to Newtown Creek is summarized in this section and Table 1 and supported in the following sections.

Overland Transport

The site is located approximately 360 feet from Newtown Creek. This is not a complete current or historical pathway.

Bank Erosion

The site is not adjacent to Newtown Creek or associated waterways. This is not a complete current or historical pathway.

Groundwater

The site is located approximately 360 feet south of Newtown Creek. Region studies indicate that groundwater beneath the site is expected to flow towards Newtown Creek; however, site-specific groundwater quality information was not included in documents available for review (Misut and Monti 1999). There is insufficient evidence to make a current or historical pathway determination.

Overwater Activities

The site is not adjacent to Newtown Creek and associated waterways. Information regarding overwater activities was not identified in documents available for review. This is not a complete current or historical pathway.

Stormwater/Wastewater Systems

Historic wastewater from site operations passed through grease traps and into a private 15-inch sewer, which, after receiving additional wastewaters from Diamond Rendering Company, Inc., discharged directly to Newtown Creek (Kelleher 1972). This is a complete historical pathway. There is insufficient evidence to make a current pathway determination for direct discharge of stormwater and wastewater.

This site is located within the Newtown Creek Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) sewershed. Wastewater discharges from the site are conveyed to the WPCP for treatment prior to discharge. Although wastewater discharges from the site flow into a separate local municipal system, it is likely that the separate local system flows into a larger combined system before reaching the treatment plant. When the combined flows exceed the system's capacity, untreated combined sewer overflows (CSOs) are discharged to Newtown Creek (NYCDEP 2007). There is insufficient evidence to make a current or historical pathway determination for discharge to sewer/CSO.

Air Releases

Information regarding air emissions from the site was not identified in documents available for review. There is insufficient information to make a historical or current pathway determination.

2 PROJECT STATUS

Information regarding on-site environmental investigations was not identified in documents available for review. A NYSDEC Site Code was not found for this site.

3 SITE OWNERSHIP HISTORY

Respondent Member:

☐ Yes ☒ No

Owners	Years	Occupant	Types of Operations
Fischer Israel Fischer Emanuel Geivirtzman Irving AS Fischer Pinkas	Unknown-1979	Pinkas Fischer and Company	Meat processing
Peerless Importers	1981-1995	Peerless Importers	Liquor Importer/Distributor
Star Recycling, Inc.	1995-1996	Unknown	Unknown
New York Acquisitions Sub.	1996-2010	Unknown	Unknown
Waste Management of New York	2010-present	3.1 Waste Management	Garbage truck storage lot

Note:

Additional discussion and sources provided in Section 6.

4 PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The site occupies approximately 0.6 acres located approximately 360 feet south of Newtown Creek. The site is approximately 20 feet above mean sea level; there is a gentle regional slope down to the northeast. The site and nearby properties are zoned for manufacturing (NYCDEP 2012). Rencoa, Inc. (DAR ID No. 139) is adjacent to the north (see Figure 1).

5 CURRENT SITE USE

The site is currently used as a parking lot for vehicles belonging to Waste Management of New York (Star Recycling, Inc. 1996).

6 SITE USE HISTORY

As early as 1933, several structures that housed a chicken feed manufacturing facility, an auto repair shop, and storage sheds occupied the northwest end of this site (Sanborn 1933). Pinkas Fischer and Company, Inc. occupied the site since at least 1965, replacing the previous auto repair shop with a fat rendering operation (Sanborn 1965). They engaged in a “dry rendering” process in which butcher waste, leaving wastes, wash-up, and drippings from the rendering process were processed into tallow and proteinaceous meal (Kelleher 1972).

Pinkas Fischer and Company, Inc. ended operations sometime in the mid to late 1970s. By 1978, there were no structures on the lot, which remained empty until at least 1990 (Sanborn 1978, 1986, 1990). The site was sold to Peerless Importers in 1981 (Israel Fischer 1981). In 1995, it was mortgaged to Star Recycling, Inc. (Star Recycling, Inc. 1995) and then sold to New York Acquisition Sub. The site now belongs to Waste Management of New York (Star Recycling, Inc. 1996).

7 CURRENT AND HISTORICAL AREAS OF CONCERN AND COPCs

The current understanding of the historical and current potential upland and overwater areas of concern at the site is summarized in Table 1. The following sections provide brief discussion of the potential sources and COPCs at the site requiring additional discussion.

Areas of concern at the site include areas in which meat processing, tallow production, and vehicle storage and maintenance activities occurred. COPCs associated with these areas of concern include petroleum hydrocarbons, metals, VOCs, and SVOCs.

7.1 Uplands

As described above in Section 6, Pinkas Fischer produced tallow and proteinaceous meal at their facility. Historic wastewater discharges from the site to Newtown Creek are discussed in Section 9.3.

7.2 Overwater Activities

The site is not adjacent to Newtown Creek and associated waterways. Information regarding overwater activities was not identified in documents available for review.

7.3 Spills

Information regarding on-site spills was not identified in documents available for review.

8 PHYSICAL SITE SETTING

Site-specific hydrogeologic information was not identified in documents available for review. The geologic setting for Newtown Creek consists of impermeable Precambrian and

Paleozoic crystalline bedrock, overlain by the Upper Cretaceous Raritan formation, Magothy formation and Matawan Group (undifferentiated), unconsolidated Pleistocene deposits and upper Pleistocene glacial deposits and Holocene shore, beach salt-marsh deposits, and alluvium, along with local occurrences of artificial fill (Buxton et al. 1981; Soren and Simmons 1987). The primary areas of groundwater discharge are Newtown Creek and its tributaries and the East River (Misut and Monti 1999). In the vicinity of Newtown Creek, groundwater flow in the Upper Glacial aquifer is generally north and south towards the creek. With increased distance from the creek, groundwater will flow towards the nearest surface water body to discharge (Misut and Monti 1999). Incidences of perched groundwater may occur above the Upper Glacial Aquifer in some areas, particularly in formerly low-lying areas that have been filled. Groundwater flow at a specific property may differ from the regional pattern due to pumping for groundwater treatment or dewatering activities (Misut and Monti 1999), the presence of buried utilities, or other preferential pathways.

9 NATURE AND EXTENT (CURRENT UNDERSTANDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS)

9.1 Soil

Soil Investigations

☐ Yes ☒ No

Bank Samples

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable

Soil-Vapor Investigations

☐ Yes ☒ No

Information regarding on-site soil investigations was not identified in documents available for review.

9.2 Groundwater

Groundwater Investigations

☐ Yes ☒ No

NAPL Presence (Historical and Current)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Dissolved COPC Plumes

☐ Yes ☒ No

Visual Seep Sample Data

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable

Information regarding on-site groundwater investigations was not identified in documents available for review.

9.3 Surface Water

Surface Water Investigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
SPDES Permit (Current or Past)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit (Current or Past)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Stormwater Data	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Catch Basin Solids Data	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Wastewater Data	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

This site is located within the Newtown Creek WPCP sewershed (NYCDEP 2007).

Wastewater discharges from the site are conveyed to the WPCP for treatment prior to discharge. Although wastewater discharges from the site flow into a separate local municipal system, it is likely that the separate local system flows into a larger combined system prior to reaching the treatment plant. When the combined flows exceed the system's capacity, untreated CSOs are discharged to Newtown Creek (NYCDEP 2007).

Historic wastewater from site operations passed through grease traps and into a private 15-inch sewer, which, after receiving additional wastewaters from Diamond Rendering Company, Inc., discharged directly to Newtown Creek (Kelleher 1972). Prior to August 16, 1973, rendering operations at the site resulted in industrial wastewater, combined with sanitary sewage from plant personnel, being discharged directly to Newtown Creek via a private 15-inch sewer (Kelleher 1972). A Consent Order between New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Pinkas Fischer & Company, Inc. was signed in January 1972 (NYSDEC 1972). The Order required the site to cease wastewater discharges to Newtown Creek. In June of 1973, a letter was submitted to the NYSDEC that the combined sanitary and industrial wastewaters from active operations were being collected and trucked to the New York City Water Treatment Plant (E.C.O. 1973a). Later dye testing conducted at the site confirmed that only stormwater from the site was being discharged to Newtown Creek (E.C.O. 1973b).

9.4 Sediment

Creek Sediment Data	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
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Information regarding sediment investigations was not identified in documents available for review.

9.5 Air

Air Permit

☐ Yes ☒ No

Air Data

☐ Yes ☒ No

Information regarding air emissions from the site was not identified in documents available for review.

10 REMEDIATION HISTORY (INTERIM REMEDIAL MEASURES AND OTHER CLEANUPS)

Information regarding on-site remedial activities was not identified in documents available for review.

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY/INFORMATION SOURCES

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- E.C.O. (Environmental Control Overseas, Inc.), 1973a. Letter to: Joseph Kelleher, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Pure Waters. Regarding: P. Fischer and Company, Inc., 548 Gardener Avenue, Brooklyn New York. June 14, 1973.
- E.C.O., 1973b. Letter to: Joseph Kelleher, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Pure Waters. Regarding: P. Fischer and Company, Inc.. August 16, 1973.
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Kelleher (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation), 1972a.

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Misut and Monti (Misut, P.E. and Monti, J. Jr.), 1999. *Simulation of Ground-Water Flow and Pumpage in Kings and Queens Counties, Long Island, New York*. U.S. Geological Survey. Water-Resources Investigations Report 98-4071. 1999.

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Sanborn, 1986. *Insurance Maps of Brooklyn, New York*. Volume 9: Sheet 71. Original 1933, revised 1986.

Sanborn, 1990. *Insurance Maps of Brooklyn, New York*. Volume 9: Sheet 71. Original 1933, revised 1990. Soren and Simmons (Soren, J. and Simmons, D.L.), 1987. *Thickness and Hydrogeology of Aquifers and Confining Units Below the Upper Glacial Aquifer on Long Island, New York*. U.S. Geological Survey. Water-Resources Investigations Report 86-4175. Scale 1:125,000. 1987.

Star Recycling, Inc., 1995. Mortgage between Star Recycling and Peerless Importers, Inc.
May 19, 1995.

Star Recycling, Inc., 1996. Indenture between Star Recycling, Inc. and New York
Acquisition Sub, Inc. March 1, 1996.

12 ATTACHMENTS

Figures

Figure 1 Site Vicinity Map: Pinkas Fischer

Tables

Table 1 Potential Areas of Concern and Transport Pathways Assessment

Table 1
Potential Areas of Concern and Transport Pathways Assessment – Pinkas Fischer

Potential Areas of Concern	Media Impacted					COPCs													Potential Complete Pathway							
Description of Areas of Concern	Surface Soil	Subsurface Soil	Groundwater	Catch Basin Solids	Creek Sediment	TPH			VOCs			SVOCs	PAHs	Phthalates	Phenolics	Metals	PCBs	Herbicides and Pesticides	Dioxins/Furans	Overland Transport	Groundwater	Direct Discharge – Overwater	Direct Discharge – Storm/Wastewater	Discharge to Sewer/CSO	Bank Erosion	Air Releases
						Gasoline-Range	Diesel – Range	Heavier – Range	Petroleum Related (e.g., BTEX)	VOCs	Chlorinated VOCs															
Former rendering process areas	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	-	?	-	✓	✓	-	?

Notes:

√ – COPCs are/were present in areas of concern having a current or historical pathway that is determined to be complete or potentially complete.

? – There is not enough information to determine if COPC is/was present in area of concern or if pathway is complete.

-- – Current or historical pathway has been investigated and shown to be not present or incomplete.

BTEX – benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes

COPC – constituents of potential concern

CSO – combined sewer overflows PAH – polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons

PCB – polychlorinated biphenyl

SVOC – semi-volatile organic compounds

TPH – total petroleum hydrocarbons

VOC – volatile organic compounds

